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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION



CLEMENT ANDERSON,

Plaintiff,  
v.

Civil Action No. 05-CV-73672-DT  
HONORABLE PATRICK J. DUGGAN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT  
OF CORRECTIONS, et. al.,

Defendants,

**FILED**

OCT - 4 2005

CLERK'S OFFICE-DETROIT-PSG  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

**OPINION AND ORDER TRANSFERRING PLAINTIFF'S CIVIL RIGHTS  
COMPLAINT TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN**

Clement Anderson, ("plaintiff"), presently confined at the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility in Jackson, Michigan, has filed a civil rights complaint in this district pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In his complaint, plaintiff claims that he is being denied access to legal materials needed to prepare a state post-conviction motion as a result of a Michigan Department of Corrections Director's Office Memorandum, which he claims systematically denies prisoners access to such legal materials. For the reasons stated below, the Court will transfer this matter to the Western District of Michigan for further proceedings.

**I. DISCUSSION**

Venue is in the judicial district where either all defendants reside or where the claim arose. *Al-Muhaymin v. Jones*, 895 F. 2d 1147, 1148 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990); 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). For the convenience of parties and witnesses, in the interest of justice, a

district court may transfer any civil action to any other district or division where the action might have been brought. See *United States v. P.J. Dick, Inc.*, 79 F. Supp. 2d 803, 805-06 (E.D. Mich. 2000)(Gadola, J.); 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). Venue of a lawsuit may be transferred *sua sponte* for the convenience of parties or witnesses. *Sadighi v. Daghighfekr*, 36 F. Supp. 2d 267, 278 (D.S.C. 1999).

The factors that guide a district court's discretion in deciding whether to transfer a case include: (1) the convenience of the witnesses; (2) the location of relevant documents and the relative ease of access to sources of proof; (3) the convenience of the parties; (4) the locus of the operative facts; (5) the availability of process to compel the attendance of unwilling witnesses; (6) the relative means of the parties; (7) the forum's familiarity with governing law; (8) the weight accorded the plaintiff's choice of forum; and (9) trial efficiency and interests of justice, based upon the totality of the circumstances. *Overland, Inc. v. Taylor*, 79 F. Supp. 2d 809, 811 (E.D. Mich. 2000)(Gadola, J.).

The Court concludes that both for the convenience of the parties and witnesses, as well as in the interests of justice, the present matter must be transferred to the Western District of Michigan. In this case, plaintiff's complaint challenges an alleged system-wide policy of the Michigan Department of Corrections, and therefore, the material events occurred wherever these policies were created. See *Boyd v. Snyder*, 44 F. Supp. 2d 966, 970-71 (N.D. Ill. 1999). The alleged policy was promulgated in Lansing, Michigan, which is in the Western District of Michigan. Because this was the primary situs of the material events in this case, plaintiff's choice of forum carries little

weight. *Id.* Moreover, because the plaintiff may seek to enjoin further implementation of this policy, "[t]he locus of policy implementation is more relevant than the locus of policy creation" for purposes of venue. *Id.* at 971. Accordingly, this matter will be transferred to the Western District of Michigan for further proceedings.

## II. ORDER

Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS** the Clerk of the Court to transfer this case to the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).

  
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**HON. R. STEVEN WHALEN**  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

DATED: *9/30/05*